

DRAFT

Plans for London's **MAY FIRST**

for

PEACE, DEMOCRACY
SOCIAL ADVANCE

Conference Saturday, January 16, 3 p.m.
Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road,
(near Victoria Station)

(This material, completed and supplemented with illustrations, messages of greetings and advertisements, will be the Official Programme on sale two weeks prior to May First.)

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LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

3. CENTRAL PREPARATIONS

The Committee invite all supporting organisations to arouse interest and enthusiasm long before the actual day of the demonstration.

Publicity

The Committee will welcome orders for the following:—

AN ILLUSTRATED MAY FIRST SPECIAL, titled "Merry England," 2d. Out at the beginning of March.

500,000 LEAFLETS, ready beginning April, "March in Defence of Democracy and Peace on May 1st."

SOUVENIR PROGRAMME, with all arrangements, on sale two weeks prior to May 1st.

4-page FOLDER describing aims and proposals as a stock circular and appeal.

A striking two-colour POSTER, out in February, for display at all meetings and in offices, clubs and windows.

A POSTCARD of greeting for use in April.

The Committee have great pleasure in announcing that:

UNITY THEATRE CLUB have prepared a short SKETCH suitable for meetings, taking some 20 minutes and dealing with May First. Book through the Secretary, Unity Theatre Club, Britannia Street, King's Cross, W.C.1. Ter. 3148.

KINO have short film which can be shown at T.U. branches and other meetings. Book through the Secretary, Kino, 84, Gray's Inn Road, W.C.1.

Special banners are available for display on platforms at public meetings, also posters for decorating the hall. Please apply to the Secretary for loan of the banners.

The Committee will send a short letter to the Chairman of meetings advertised in the press, and trust to receive support through the reading of this letter.

Copies of letters, articles and advertisements for publication will be supplied by the Secretary on request, and names and addresses of suitable periodicals will be welcomed. Any organisations with a journal of their own or any individual supporter having the possibility of getting publicity should make use of our material.

The Committee will organise concerts in February, March and April, to secure publicity and to raise money. Offers of suitable halls and support will be welcomed.

A panel of speakers on May First is being formed.

Organisation

Affiliations to the Committee will be welcomed.

The Committee desires to compile a list of individual supporters and will issue a form for this purpose.

JANUARY 16TH. Conference at Denison House.

SATURDAY, MARCH 20TH. There will be full meeting of the Committee, plus representatives of interested organisations, to review the whole situation.

SATURDAY, APRIL 17TH. Conference of marshals and stewards to consider arrangements for the march, in the park and in the evening. Each organisation is requested to send four marshals or stewards to this meeting.

The Committee will issue weekly a one-sheet bulletin to supporting organisations and individuals.

Trade Union Recruitment

Throughout all work for May First, every opportunity should be taken to build up the trade unions. There are 2,000,000 workers in London eligible for T.U. membership who are unorganised. The appeal for trade unionism should be made at all our meetings. Gifts to the demonstration in the park could appropriately take the form of an announcement that during the campaign a particular factory has become 100 per cent. T.U. It is hoped that numerous card inspections will take place during the fortnight preceding May First, and that on the day itself T.U. badges should be worn en masse.

At all meetings held in connection with First of May, any non-unionist present should be invited and encouraged to apply for T.U. membership. Names and addresses thus collected should be forwarded to the appropriate union or to the London Trades Council if any doubt exists.

4. LOCAL PREPARATIONS

Experience has suggested that it is in the boroughs where local activity is most useful.

It is hoped that the local Trades Council in each borough will set up an all-inclusive committee of all organisations supporting May 1st. A sub-committee of the Trades Council could group around itself all those prepared to help.

In the event of the Trades Council being unable to take this step, it will be necessary for all supporting organisations to come together and set up a committee.

The Central Committee would appreciate arrangements whereby it could communicate with one responsible secretary in each borough.

Local preparation could most effectively take the form of
Propaganda for May 1st;

Distribution of the publicity material of the Central Committee Trade Union Recruitment.

All local committees should be functioning by February.

5. FINANCIAL APPEAL

We estimate that a minimum of £500 is required to carry out our proposals. We appeal to all organisations to send donations and to raise money by collections. A collecting sheet is available on request.

In addition to the concerts and other methods of raising money organised by the Committee, it would be much appreciated if the supporting organisations would take their own measures to raise some substantial amounts towards the costs.

6. TIME TABLE, ROUTE AND ORDER OF THE MARCH

May 1st at

- 2.30 p.m.—Assemble on Victoria Embankment.
- 3. 0 p.m.—Head of demonstration moves off.
- 4. 0 p.m.—Arrive Hyde Park.
- 4.30 p.m.—Community Singing and Pledge.
- 5. 0 p.m.—Resolution.

A plan of assembly on the Embankment will be issued, to which all organisations are requested to conform.

Contingents desiring to march to the Embankment should make their own arrangements. It is proposed that there should be marches from Stepney Green, leaving at 1.30 p.m.; St. George's Circus, 2 p.m.; St. Pancras Arches, 1.30 p.m.

The demonstration will be organised in sections, each designed to display effectively the ideas and slogans for which the movement stands. The use of various forms of colour, banners, decorated vehicles, costumes and tableaux can enhance the propaganda appeal and multiply the effect of the demonstration manifold.

The main sections of the demonstration will be

1. Peace;
2. Trade Unionism and Co-operation;
3. Democracy;
4. Our Future Merry England.

Below are listed possible contingents, together with the names of the organisations requested to undertake responsibility for them.

ORDER OF THE PROCESSION

Description



*Organisation requested to
undertake arrangements*

The People's Flag.
Members of the Committee
and Banner: "First of May
—Day of Unity in Defence of
Peace and Democracy."

THE SPIRIT OF MAY

FIRST.
Children,
Women,
Workers.
Massed Red Flags.
Band.

May Committee.

Section 1—PEACE

The People Want Peace.
The League of Nations.
What War Means.
Organise for Peace.

Peace Organisations, together
with the Women's and Co-
operative organisations.

Section 2—TRADE UNIONISM AND CO-OPERATION

The Trade Union contingents should march according to industry: miners, railways, transport, metal, printing, building, clothing, distributive and clerical, public employees. Each division headed by gigantic cut-out figures representing the industry.

It should express the demands of the various unions concerned and also one or more of the general demands of the Trade Union Movement, e.g.:

Shorter Working Day.

London Bus Branches.

Workers' Control of Industry.

London District A.E.U.

Wage Increases.

Building Trades.

Support the Workers' Press.

Printing Trades.

Against Piece-work.

T.U. shop stewards and factory organisations, aircraft workers.

Control the Conveyor.

Clothing Workers.

It is requested that all organisations having additional proposals, for which they are ready to assume responsibility, should communicate them to the Committee in good time for the drawing up of the full programme.

It is hoped that all Co-operative Societies will be represented and will also display the productive and distributive side of their work.

Section 3—DEMOCRACY

Description

Organisation requested to undertake arrangements

Pageant of the People's Struggle for Freedom.

Spain, Champion of Europe's Freedom.

Soviet Union, Land of Freedom.

The Printed Word in the Appeal to Reason.

Unite to Fight for Democracy

Joint Sub-Committee.

Joint Sub-Committee of Youth organisations.

F.S.U.

Workers' Bookshop.

Contingents and Banners of the Party organisations.

Section 4—OUR FUTURE MERRY ENGLAND

Description

Organisation requested to undertake arrangements

Sport.

London Labour Sports Association.

Science and the People.

Students and professional organisations.

Culture.

“Left Review.”

The Brotherhood of Peoples
in Class Society.

The marshalling and order of the demonstration will best be secured by every organisation having its own marshals, who will be informed in good time of all arrangements.

Bands and choirs will be interspersed at such intervals as will be most effective.

The dignity and order of the march will be enhanced if all participating will refrain from shouting and will sing only in accordance with the bands and choirs.

The route of the march will be as follows:—

The Committee will, in its leaflets, call for the lining of this route at a number of points by spectators, who will join in at the end for the march to the park.

7. ARRANGEMENTS IN HYDE PARK

The platforms will be arranged on the sides of a rectangle of sufficient size to accommodate the demonstration in the order in which it has marched.

On entering the park the demonstration will retain its ranks and will march past the first platforms in such a way that spectators will be able to see all the banners and contingents.

Bands and choirs will be massed at the central platform, and the meeting will open by community singing.

Programme in the park will be :

1. Mass March Past and Rally;
2. Community Singing;
3. Taking the May First Pledge;
4. Speeches;
5. Resolution;
6. Internationale.

One contingent will march out of the park at 5.30 to Shore-ditch Town Hall.

All supporting organisations are invited to nominate a speaker for the park and for the evening.

8. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE EVENING

The Committee recommend a number of meetings, taking the form of one speaker followed by entertainment of a suitable character. All these meetings to be organised on the basis of tickets being sold before the meeting.

The places suggested are

Shoreditch Town Hall,
Friends' Meeting House,
Tottenham Town Hall,
Hammersmith Town Hall,
Battersea Town Hall,
Woolwich Town Hall.

The profits on all these meetings should be devoted to the funds of the Committee, which will supply one speaker if requested and will assist in organising the entertainment.

Please admit Bearer
to Conference
John Nelson